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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1941

BY

R. DE VEIL KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the Taunton Joint Isolation Hospital and Somerset County Council Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Taunton:

R. de V. King, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Telephone: Taunton 3389.

Sanitary Inspector:

R. H. Gardner, C.R.S.I. (appt. March, 1911)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. G. Payne, C.R.S.I. (appt. Feb., 1936)

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Tuberculosis Sanatorium:

Miss M. Milner, S.R.N.
Address: Taunton Isolation Hospital,
Cheddon Road.
Telephone: Taunton 2396.

Clerk to the Council:

P. O. Cowlishaw, Mary Street House, Taunton.
Telephone: Taunton 2285.

TAUNTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1941.

Area (in acres)	70,675
Estimate of Resident Population	20,080
Census Population, 1931	17,101
No. of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books, on December 31st, 1941	4,920
Rateable value—31st December, 1941	£94,395
Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 31st December, 1941...	£395

Extracts from the vital statistics.

Live Births :—

	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate ...	254	131	123	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.39
Illegitimate ...	15	10	5	
	269	141	128	

Still Births—Total 8.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 28.8

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 0.39

Deaths—Total 271.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13.49

Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total 2.

	Deaths.	Rates per 1,000 births.
Puerperal Sepsis	1	3.61
Other Puerperal causes	1	3.61

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—Total 23.

Legitimate 20, Illegitimate 3.

Death Rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births 74.91

For the calculation of the Infant Mortality Rate the Registrar General has given the figure 307 as the number of live births during the year.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	2
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	—

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live Births	14.2 per 1,000 civilian population.
Still Births	0.51 ,, ,, ,, ,,
Deaths, all causes ...	12,9 ,, ,, ,, ,,
Maternal Mortality, all causes,	2.23 per 1,000 total births (live and still).
Infant Mortality	59.0 ,, ,, ,,

Causes of Death during 1941.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	2	3
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	2	2	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Syphilitic diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	—	6	6
Measles	1	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioenceph: ...	—	—	—
Acute infectious Encehpalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	2	7
Cancer of breast	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	5	8	13
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	8	19	27
Heart disease	35	37	72
Other disease of the circulatory system ...	2	5	7
Bronchitis	8	9	17
Pneumonia	6	4	10
Other respiratory disease	1	2	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
Diarrhœa under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease	7	4	11

Causes of Death during 1941 (continued).

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Total.
Nephritis	9	7	16
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Premature birth	5	2	7
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	7	3	10
Suicide	2	1	3
Road traffic accidents	2	1	3
Other violent causes	4	—	4
All other causes	12	18	30
All causes—Total ...	127	144	271

Infant Mortality during 1941.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Congenital malformation, etc.	3	—	1	—	4	1	1	—	—	6
Birth injury	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	5
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Septic Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	11	—	1	—	12	5	3	2	1	23

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities remain as described in the Report for 1938. Cothelstone Manor Hostel for unbilletable evacuees such as enuretics, problem children, etc., continues its good work. Sick evacuees or those suffering from contagious diseases are admitted to Belmont Sick Bay in Taunton Borough for treatment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Circular 2604 from the Ministry of Health prohibits the publication of matter in connection with wartime extensions of water supplies, sewerage works or other public utility undertakings.

There is nothing new to report as to Public Cleansing as described in the Report for 1939; the salvage of the following was made during the year:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Paper	104	13	1	—
Iron	111	1	2	—
Aluminium ...	—	—	—	20
Bottles	—	3	—	—
Condemned Meat	12	8	—	—
Bones	16	8	—	—
Fats	19	6	2	—
Pig Food ...	34	6	3	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors:—

Number and nature of inspections during the year:—	
Dwelling houses	38
Slaughter houses	1,028
Bakehouses	22
Other premises where food is prepared or sold	14
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	149
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	4
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc.	77
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces ...	14
Miscellaneous	107
Number of Notices served during the year:—	
Informal Notices	44
Statutory Notices	—
Result of service of Notices:—	
Total Notices complied with	38
Notices standing over at the end of 1941 ...	6

Shops and Offices. Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops, 22 visits have been made.
sanitary conveniences of shops, 8 visits have been made.

Camping Sites. The local authority have not found it necessary to issue any licences in respect of these, as advertised camping sites appear to fall within Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. There has been no necessity to take action under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as there have been no complaints.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are not any in the area.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. No Council or other houses have been found to be infested with bed-bugs.

Schools. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools in the area are satisfactory. Owing to the number of school-age evacuees in the area, accommodation has been found for them in various village halls, institutes and clubs.

Offensive Trades. There is one Offensive Trade in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for Tripe Boiling.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Up to December 31st, 1941, the following individuals were billeted in the District:—

Unaccompained Children	744
Accompanied Children	231
Mothers, Helpers, Teachers	422
TOTAL	1,397

This is 1,014 less than in 1940.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—137 inspections were made to 356 registered premises in the area, and 104 samples of milk were taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist. The analytical results are as follows:—

Designation.	No. of Samples taken.	No. found satisfactory.	No. found unsatisfactory.	Percentage unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested	40	32	8	20.0
Accredited	59	40	19	32.2
Examined for tubercle bacilli	15	15	0	0
	114	87	27	23.7

These results are far from good.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—6 cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register 356

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(a) Distributors only 12

(b) Distributors who are also Producers ... 27

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order, the following licences are in force in the District and issued by the County Council:—

Licences: Tuberculin Tested producers 12

Accredited producers 21

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Local Authority for the sale of Pasteurised Milk in the District but which is not porduced therein.

Bakehouses.—There are 21 Bakehouses in the District and 15 inspections were made to them. Seventeen bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—The County Council undertakes this work. With the exception of samples of milk, no other foods were sent to the County Laboratory for examination during the year.

HOUSING.

There has not been any overcrowding during the year, the number of evacuees under the Government Scheme being over a thousand less than in 1940; one house condemned under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was requisitioned by the Chief Billeting Officer and after alterations and repairs, the cost of which was borne by the Council, it was used for housing evacuees.

Two other houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, at Athelney and Stanmore, were given temporary licences for re-occupation, and three others at Creech St. Michael, Stoke St. Gregory and West Monkton had their licences renewed. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure covered by Reg. 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, this Regulation being added during July, 1940. These houses are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc., necessary to bring them in such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary wartime measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. When the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the occupation of the house, but the licence is not operative for more than six months at a time. This Regulation is intended to meet the housing needs of the influx of agricultural workers.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following gives the number of notifications for notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Measles was very prevalent during the year and it is probable that not all cases were notified in accordance with the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939. Scarlet Fever was another disease with a high notification rate. The five Paratyphoid "B" cases were all connected with an outbreak which occurred in the Borough of Taunton.

Disease.	No. of Notifications.	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.	
		Taunton R.D.	Eng. & Wales.
Typhoid Fever	—	—	0.03
Paratyphoid Fever ...	5	0.24	0.09
Cerebro-Sprinal Fever ...	9	0.44	0.25
Scarlet Fever	47	2.34	1.47
Whooping Cough ...	23	1.14	4.39
Diphtheria	16	0.79	1.25
Erysipelas	1	0.05	0.30
Measles	275	13.69	10.33
Pneumonia	18	0.89	1.25
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	*7.22	*11.91
Dysentery	2	—	—

* Puerperal Pyrexia rates are calculated on the basis of 2 per 1,000 live and still Births.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Ages in Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.		Resp'tory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5 — 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	4	2	1	—	1	1	—	1
45 — 55	2	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
55 — 65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	13	2	2	2	2	—	2